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ABSTRACT

This report sets out results for Australia arising from its participation in the Second International Science Study (SISS). The focus is on Year 12 students, including those studying science and those not currently studying science. Most of the results for the science students are presented separately for those specializing in biology, chemistry, or physics. In addition to measures of science achievement, the report deals with the extent to which students remain at school until Year 12, and pursue the study of science, and a range of factors associated with the learning of science. Finally, in the conclusion the report includes an overview of results for the other 16 countries with comparable results at the upper secondary level. Chapters include: (1) "Introduction"; (2) "Participation and Curriculum"; (3) "Populations and Samples"; (4) "Tests and Questionnaires"; (5) "State Differences in Science Achievement"; (6) "Student Background Characteristics"; (7) "Learning Environment"; (8) "Students' Attitudes"; (9) "Verbal and Mathematics Abilities"; (10) "A Model of Science Achievement at Year 12"; and (11) "Conclusion." A list of the members of the Australian National Committee, supplementary tables, and technical notes are appended. (KR)

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